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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/550,987	04/17/2000	BJORN I DANIELSEN	60021-356301	1832

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EXAMINER

DETWILER, BRIAN J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2004

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DM

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/550,987

Applicant(s)

DANIELSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Brian J Detwiler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003. *2nd*
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by “Special Edition Using Microsoft Outlook 2000” (hereinafter Outlook).

Referring to claims 1, 8, and 15, the Outlook reference discloses an activity window in Figure 11.11. In the section immediately above Figure 11.8, the Outlook reference explains that the user can select “New” from the standard toolbar to create or define a new task/activity. Said “New” button corresponds to the claimed define activity button. The form illustrated in Figure 11.8 allows a user to input a subject, a start date, a due date, and status information. Upon entering this information and selecting the “Save and Close” button, the new task/activity is displayed in the activity window as illustrated in Figure 11.11. Figure 11.14 shows another view of the activity window in which the subject, due date, and status information are visible for each task/activity. As supported in the section entitled “Changing the Fields Displayed in a View” (on the page following Figure 38.10), users can customize the view of Outlook items by adding or removing fields. A section from Appendix C lists “start date” as an available field when viewing tasks/activities. Accordingly, users could view the start date, the due date, and status information of a task/activity in the activity window wherein said start date corresponds to the claimed start

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data, the due date corresponds to the claimed activity duration data, and the status information corresponds to the claimed status data. Finally, as explained in items 6 and 8 following Figure 11.8, users can determine and select a status for a particular task/activity based on the start data and the duration data.

Referring to claims 2-4, 9-11, and 16-18, the form in Figure 11.8 allows a user to input any text into the subject field. Accordingly, the defined task/activity could inherently be described as a brainstorming, categorization, or voting activity.

Referring to claims 5, 12, and 19, the Outlook reference discloses in Figure 11.18 a message window that is cable of displaying user messages in real time.

Referring to claims 6, 13, and 20, the Outlook reference discloses in Appendix C that Microsoft Outlook maintains a database comprising various tables of information, wherein each table contains many fields that further comprise the information that is visible in Outlook's forms. Accordingly, upon selecting the "Save and Close" button in Figure 11.8, the defined activity is sent to a database as claimed.

Referring to claims 7 and 14, the Outlook reference discloses in Figure 11.17 a dialog box from which a participant can be selected to receive a defined task/activity.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendments to the specification are acceptable and the corresponding objections have been withdrawn.

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***Conclusion***

Applicant is hereby notified that a new examiner has been assigned to the instant application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J Detwiler whose telephone number is 703-305-3986. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8-5:30 and alternating Fridays 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W Cabeca can be reached on 703-308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bjd



CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER